GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4052
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2001
LIFTING THE BAN ON IMPORT OF CEMENT
JAYASHREE BANERJEE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether ban on import of cement has been lifted;

(b) the terms and conditions under which the import of cement would be allowed;

(c) the extent to which the import of cement would stabilize the prices of cement; and

(d) the other efforts being made by the Government to stabilize the cement price?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) to (d) : Import of cement as classified under Exim Code Heading 25.23 ofITC(HS) Classification of Export and Import Items, is free since 1996. Import of 14 specified grades of cement has been made subject to mandatory quality standards vide notification no. 44 dated 24.11.2000 alongwith 117 other products. The domestic producers of these grades of cement are already under obligation to comply with these standards. Basic customs duty on import of Portland cement has been reduced from 35% to 25% in the Budget for the year 2001-2002. Since import of cement is free, any private entity can import the product depending on demand, supply and price situation in the domestic vis-Ã -vis international market.